Drafted:EUR/SOV: ~~~~~~~ in ~~~~~~
7/30/80
Cleared:EUR/SOV:R~~~~~, Jr.

August 6, 1980

Dear Mr. Barnes:

I have been asked to reply to your letter of July 30 to ~~~~~~~ concerning your interest in the Raoul Wallenberg case.

Following discussions on this subject in ~~~~~~ 1979, the Department raised this matter with the Soviet Embassy twice more -- in July and in October, 1979 -- seeking further clarification of Wallenberg's fate. We pressed the Soviets again in December for a full and adequate response. Rugrettably, the Soviets failed to respond to our inquiries until February 29 when they formally and in writing reaffirmed their claim that Wallenberg had died in the USSR during July, 1947. The Soviets also stated that they had informed the Swedish Government directly of their latest findings and suggested that they would have no further information on this matter in the future.

Given the current depressed state of our relations with the Soviet Union and the tone of the February 29 reply, we do not believe that the Soviets would be responsive now to further inquiries now about Raoul Wallenberg.

Unfortunately, the Secretary's very busy schedule precludes his meeting with the Wallenberg family during the period you suggested. I assure you that the Department continues to monitor all significant developments in this tragic case and will inform you should any new information develop.

Incidentally, you will be interested to know that extensive interviews were conducted with each of five prominent Soviet dissidents exchanged for two Soviet spies in New York City on April 27, 1979, on the possibility that Wallenberg was still alive in Soviet prison camps. None of the five ex-prisoners could confirm or lend credence to such rumors.

Sincerely,

J. Ellen Atwood
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

The Honorable
    Michael D. Barnes,
        House of Representatives.